

## Message Text

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11

ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4294

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, CV, PO, PU

SUBJ: DEVELOPMENTS IN CAPE VERDE ISLANDS

FOLLOWING MAY 20 LETTER, FROM GUINEA (BISSAU) OBSERVER  
TO CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE OF 24, CIRCULATED BY COMMITTEE OF  
24 MAY 28:

QTE

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO COMMUNICATE TO YOU THE FOLLOWING DISPATCH  
SENT TO US BY THE INFORMATION SERVICE OF THE PARTIDO AFRICANO  
DA INDEPENDENCIA DA GUINE'E  
CABO VERDE (PAIGC) CONCERNING THE EVENTS IN THE CAPE VERDE  
ISLANDS AND TO REQUEST YOU TO HAVE IT CIRCULATED AS AN OFFICIAL  
DOCUMENT OF THE DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE, UNDER THE ITEM RELATING  
TO TERRITORIES ADMINISTERED BY PORTUGAL:

"ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED, THE POPULATION OF THE TOWN  
OF PRAIA HAS DEMONSTRATED IN FAVOUR OF INDEPENDENCE AND TO  
REAFFIRM ITS SUPPORT FOR PAIGC.

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BECAUSE OF THE SCEPTICISM STILL PREVAILING IN CAPE VERDE AFTER

THE LISBON COUP D'ETAT, GROUPS OF YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE EXPRESSED THROUGH THESE DEMONSTRATIONS ON 27, 28 AND 29 APRIL 1974 THEIR DESIRE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUE LIBERTY FOR EVERYONE.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ON 30 APRIL, AT THE VERY TIME WHEN THE ARMY WAS OCCUPYING THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE POLICIA INTERNACIONAL E DE DEFESA DO ESTADO (PIDE)/DIRECCAO-GERAL DE SEGURANCA (DGS), A GREAT POPULAR DEMONSTRATION WAS TAKING PLACE IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING. A MOTOR-CAR AND SEVERAL OTHER VEHICLES BELONGING TO PIDE AGENTS AND THEIR COLLABORATORS WERE SET ON FIRE.

PLACARDS CARRIED BY THE DEMONSTRATORS READ: "LONG LIVE PAIGC\*", "DOWN WITH COLONIALISM\*" AND "HONOUR AND GLORY TO AMILCAR CABRAL\*" ON 1 MAY 1974 A LARGE PROCESSION MARCHED IN THE MORNING FROM THE TOWN OF PRAIA, FROM SANTA CATARINA AND FROM SEVERAL OTHER PARTS OF THE ISLAND TOWARDS THE TARRAFAL CONCENTRATION CAMP; SHOUTING SLOGANS AND RHYTHMIC RALLYING CRIES, THE MARCHERS DEMANDED THE RELEASE OF THE POLITICAL PRISONERS OF CAPE VERDE AND THE OTHER COLONIES AND THE RESIGNATION AND PUBLIC TRIAL OF EDUARDO FONTES, THE SADISTIC CHIEF OF THE CAMP.

IN THE AFTERNOON, WHEN THE PRISONERS ARRIVED AT THE TOWN OF PRAIA, A CROWD OF ABOUT 15,000 PERSONS HELD UP DOZEN OF PLACARDS, PAIGC FLAGS AND PORTRAITS OF AMILCAR CABRAL.

A MEETING IN SUPPORT OF PAIGC WAS HELD THAT NIGHT AT SANTA CATARINA. AT PRAIA, THE SAME NIGHT, THE POLICE FIRED ON THE DEMONSTRATORS, KILLING A WORKER. THE NEXT DAY SEVERAL THOUSAND PERSONS PARTICIPATED IN THE FUNERAL, WHICH TOOK PLACE WITHOUT INCIDENT.

DURING THE FOLLOWING DAYS THE PEOPLE CONTINUED TO DEMONSTRATE IN SUPPORT OF PAIGC. ON 4 MAY A LARGE POLITICAL MEETING WAS HELD AT THE PRAIA CINEMA, IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF GREAT NATIONALISTIC AND REVOLUTIONARY FERVOUR. AT THE MEETING A DEMAND WAS MADE FOR THE TOTAL AND IMMEDIATE INDEPENDENCE OF CAPE VERDE UNDER THE FLAG OF PAIGC.

A SECOND POPULAR MEETING AT SANTA CATARINA, AT WHICH THE PEOPLE

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AGAIN DEMANDED TOTAL AND IMMEDIATE INDEPENDENCE, TOOK PLACE ON 8 MAY.

ON 11 MAY ANOTHER POLITICAL MEETING TOOK PLACE AT PRAIA. THE SAME DAY A SMALL GROUP OF ABOUT 30 PERSONS, PROTECTED BY THE POLICE AND SUPPORTED BY THE REACTIONARY ELEMENTS, VAINLY ATTEMPTED TO EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO THE RALLYING CRIES OF THOSE CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL

INDEPENDENCE OF CAPE VERDE. THIS ATTEMPT AT SABOTAGE FAILED  
MISERABLY IN THE FACE OF THE SPONTANEOUS REACTION OF THE  
PEOPLE."

(SIGNED) JULIO SEMEDO  
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT OBSERVER  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS UNQTE  
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